Public Comment Overview & Revisions Discussion
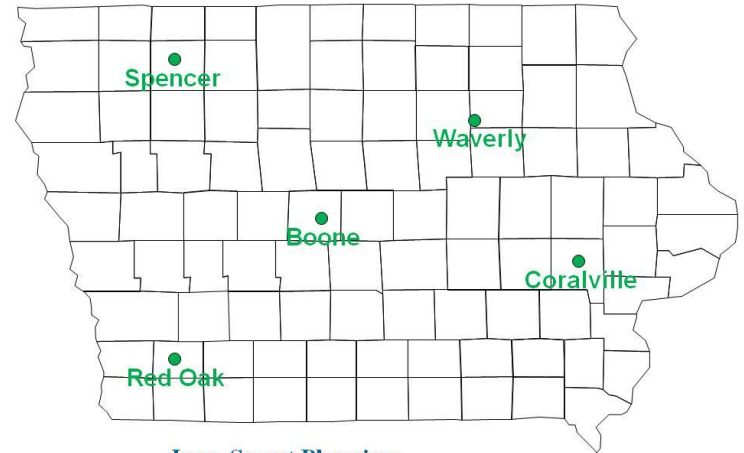
October 20, 2010

Overview

- Public Comment Process & Survey Results

- Synthesis of Comments
  - What was supported?
  - What questions & concerns remain?

- Discussion of Recommendations
  - Suggested Revisions
  - Prioritize
  - Cost Estimates

- Next Steps

Public Input Process

- Workgroups included Task Force members and other interested persons
- Public Input Meetings (206 participants)
  - Spencer – Sept. 28
  - Red Oak – Sept. 29
  - Waverly - Sept. 30
  - Coralville – Oct. 5
  - Webinar – Oct. 6
  - Boone – Oct. 7
- Survey (58 respondents)
- Letter & Email Submission (6 letters and 20 emails)

Opportunities were publicized via press releases from RIO (and follow-up calls to media) and outreach by Task Force members and interested organizations (APA, ISAC, League of Cities, IARC, and other organizations' newsletters, emails, and website notices).

Iowa Smart Planning:
Public Input Meeting Locations

Survey Results

See Handout

Comments: Areas of Agreement

1) Smart Planning concepts generally supported, with tangible benefits to communities and the state

2) Smart Planning framework should remain flexible and locally-driven

3) Watershed planning is a critical component

4) Education is essential

5) Inclusiveness of stakeholders is necessary

6) Costs should be shared across all levels of government

7) Streamlined access to GIS data is needed

Comments: Questions & Concerns

1) **Planning & GIS Office Structure**
   1) Independent planning office versus incorporated within an existing agency
   2) Need to reconcile governance issues with two boards
   3) Board membership may be too large

2) **Regional Planning**
   1) Concern regarding capacity of COGs to undertake regional planning
   2) Planning Advisory Committees – need greater clarification of role; committee membership concerns
   3) Regional planning concerns with border states
   4) Options for regional planning administration in Central Iowa

3) **Funding**
   1) Greater support for "additional consideration" versus threshold requirement for competitive state grants
   2) Adequate funding is necessary for success
   3) Prefer no new taxes, fees, or additional government layers
   4) Are incentives a de facto mandate?
   5) Would like to see quantified costs and benefits

4) **GIS**
   1) Need to address funding and security issues pertaining to GIS data

Iowa Smart Planning

Discussion of Public Comments

Other thoughts?

Suggested Revisions

Suggested changes to 1.1:

– Propose one coordinating council be established with the following members (17):

- Iowa Association of Regional Councils (1)
- Iowa League of Cities (1)
- Iowa State Association of Counties (1)
- Regents Universities (3)
- State Department Directors or Representatives (7)
  - DOT, DNR, DED, IDALS, DOM, DCA, HSEMD
- Appointed by the Governor (4)

– Establish two technical committees (GIS & planning)

– Location of the OPGIS:
- Keep original intent as outlined in the draft recommendations

Suggested Revisions

Suggested changes to 1.2: none

Suggested changes to 1.3: incorporate into draft recommendation #2

Suggested changes to 1.4: incorporate into draft recommendation #2

Suggested changes to 1.4: incorporate into draft recommendation #2

Suggested Revisions

Suggested changes to 1.6:

– Replace goal 3.2.1 to state: "Decrease in the growth rate of vehicle miles traveled."

– Add new goal 3.2.4: Increase in the number of bikeways, bicycle facilities, walkways, and paths built."

Suggested Revisions

Suggested changes to 2: Regional Planning

– Elements from 1.3 would be incorporated into overview

– Incorporate 1.4 into this recommendation; add details regarding Planning Advisory Committee membership and processes

- Include suggested membership: planning and zoning officials, professional planners, elected officials, architects and landscape architects, developers, and elected officials

- More clearly state that an appeal process be established regarding qualification of "smart plans"

– Incorporate 1.5 into this recommendation, including new terminology: "An entity or entities should be established, or an existing entity's responsibility expanded, in Central Iowa for the purposes of regional planning and implementation"

- This could be an expansion of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's scope of work, and/or creation of one or more COGs to facilitate regional planning within the seven counties not served by a COG.

Suggested Revisions

Suggested changes to 3. 1:

–   Incorporate into draft recommendation #2

–   Clearly state that COGs need a funding source in order to undertake regional planning.

–   Identify federal transportation and economic development funding that could be leveraged.

–   Identify other funding opportunities?

Suggested Revisions

Suggested changes to 3. 2:

– Emphasize that state support could be utilized for multi-jurisdictional planning efforts

– Identify potential federal partnerships (USDA – Rural Development?)

– Identify other funding opportunities?

Suggested Revisions

Suggested changes to 3. 3: other funding opportunities?

Suggested changes to 3.4: none

Suggested changes to 3.5: there appears to be more support for "additional consideration" for state granting programs rather than threshold requirements. May wish to remove references to threshold requirement.

Merge 3.6 and 3.7: Create smart planning education program and toolbox for local government staff, officials, and the public.
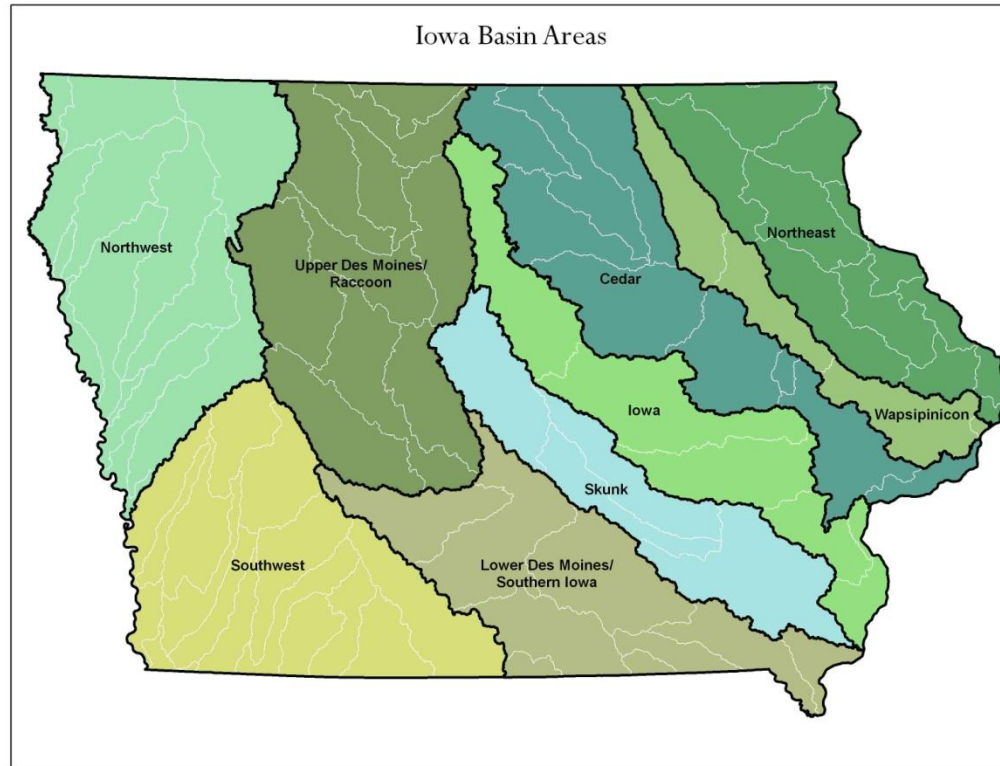
Suggested Revisions

Suggested changes to 3.8:

– Insert language clarifying concerns about data accessibility and security, including:

- The system would be both a central repository and directory depending on the data source

- All levels of government will be encouraged to share their data

- To the extent possible, data accessed via the repository/clearinghouse will be free

- Sensitive data would be stripped prior to being submitted to the GIS system

Suggested Revisions

Suggested changes to 4: see handout

Suggested changes to 5: none

Discussion Continued…

- Other Suggestions

- Prioritization of Revised Recommendations

- Cost Estimates

Next Steps

1) Staff will update recommendations and draft the full report.

2) The draft report will be provided to Task Force members toward the end of the first week of November for review, providing at least 48 hours to review and provide comment.

3) Staff will compile comments and present final draft to the Task Force at the November 10 meeting.

Thank you!